

Staff Senate Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, January 18, 2022 @ 2:00 p.m.
Delta Center 201 and Zoom

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Routine Business
 - a. Meeting Minutes
 - b. Treasurer's Report
- IV. Guest Speaker
 - a. Dr. Todd Shields, Chancellor
- V. New Business: SGOC Proposal
- VI. Announcements and Reminders
 - a. Next Meeting: February 15, 2023

Staff Senate Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 14, 2022 @ 2:00 p.m.
Delta Center 201 and Zoom

- I. Call to Order – Madeline Ragland at 2:00 p.m.
- II. Roll Call
- III. Routine Business
 - a. Meeting Minutes – The meeting minutes were approved unanimously with changes.
 - b. Treasurer’s Report – Sandra Bramblett
- IV. Guest Speaker – Dr. Lonnie Williams, Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement
 - Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement Division Areas:
 - Community Engagement & Outreach: Works with a number of community partners to help sponsor programs and to connect A-State and its students to Jonesboro and surrounding areas
 - Multicultural Center: Works to create a welcoming and inclusive campus environment, providing programming for appreciation of diversity, multiculturalism, and social justice. Committed to affirming the overall experience of our students, serve as a support system, and act as a resource for students’ needs and concerns from marginalized and/or underrepresented identity groups
 - Access & Accommodations: Responsible for coordinating and providing support to students with disabilities, ensuring access for students with disabilities, and comply with ADA, ADAA amendments act of 2008, Section 504 and Section 508 of Rehabilitation Act. All A-State students with a disability may utilize the services Access & Accommodations provide.
 - AmeriCorps – Neighborhood Red Wolves Community Engagement: Math Prep Tutors are current A-State students who commit to serve 300 hours over the course of an academic year and are placed with a community partner host site. Post-Secondary Readiness Mentors members commit to serving 1,700 hours over 43 weeks to provide college planning, post-secondary goal setting, and personal skill development to students

Staff Senate Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 14, 2022 @ 2:00 p.m.
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-Diversifying our Curing Community (DOCC): Selective program for students who are interested in careers as a medical doctor.

- Diversity has become a top-priority item following incidents in recent years, both throughout the country and on-campus, as well as in response to hate crimes in Arkansas being on the rise.
- Ongoing work on campus: A-State's colleges have been asked to provide individual diversity plans. We also have a shared governance committee (Diversity and Affirmative Action Committee), and the ADHE Minority and Recruitment and Retention report done annually.
- What can you do? Consider how your own perspective, experiences, and biases affect the way you view things; starting place for diversity conversations is an examination of oneself; get to know your students; maintain consistent communication; acknowledge and respect every student/employee; practice cultural sensitivity; incorporate diversity where possible; allow flexibility.

V. Announcements and Reminders

- Discussion of requiring senators to attend in-person starting in January.
- Alyssa Wells made a motion to require that Senators must attend Senate meetings in-person starting in January; if Senators are unable to attend in-person due to work conflicts (such as employees who work remotely), Senators must reach out to the Staff Senate President to let them know. If Senators can attend neither in-person or via Zoom, they are expected to send a proxy in-person; if the proxy is unable to attend in-person, then they may attend via Zoom. Sandra Bramblett seconded the motion, and all are in favor.

Next meeting: January 18, 2023



**Staff Senate Treasurer's Report
December 31, 2022**

<u>University E & G Accounts</u>		<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Debit/ Credit</u>	<u>Remaining</u>
Staff Senate 110000-120008-1630	Beginning Balance FY22	\$2,140.00		<u>\$2,140.00</u>
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Santa's Wolves Agency Account 930002-390000-5000	Balance Forward	\$ 1,864.41		
	Transfer Santa's Wolves Christmas fund		10,000.00	
	Materials for LBC setup		(148.04)	
	Annual gift cards and Christmas 2022 gift cards		(8,058.98)	
				<u>\$3,657.39</u>
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ASU Foundation Accounts				
Santa's Wolves 200067	Balance Forward	\$22,292.15		
	Payroll deposits for November		404.08	
	Transfer to agency account-Pcard		(10,000.00)	
				<u>\$12,696.23</u>
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Staff Senate Discretionary 200069	Balance Forward	\$20,260.48		
				<u>\$20,260.48</u>
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Staff Senate Education Assistance 230139	Balance Forward	\$2,482.73		
	November Contributions		41.64	
				<u>\$2,524.37</u>

Shared Governance Proposal Review Process

Official Use Only

Proposal Name:

Date Received: _____ Is proposal a SGOC issue? Yes No

Responsible Committee:

Type of review:

Faculty Handbook Issue: Yes No Staff Handbook Issue: Yes No

Constituency Groups: Faculty Senate Chair's Council
 Staff Senate SGA
 Dean's Council GSC

	Expedited (7 Business Days)	Full (39 Business Days)	Extended (93 Business Days)
SGOC establish disposition	2 days	5 days	
	Due by:	Due by:	
SGOC forward to responsible committees and SGCs	2 days	5 days	
	Due by:	Due by:	
SGCs send comments to responsible committee	7 days	21 days	
	Due by:	Due by:	
Responsible committee prepares final draft and sends to SGOC	7 days	21 days	
	Due by:	Due by:	
SGOC sends final draft to constituency groups for final up/down vote	2 days	5 days	
	Due by:	Due by:	
Constituency groups vote and notify SGOC	7 days	21 days	
	Due by:	Due by:	
SGOC tally votes and sends final report	2 days	5 days	
	Due by:	Due by:	
Chancellor review and response	10 days	10 days	
	Due by:	Due by:	

Notes:

Final Status:

Date:

Shared Governance Proposal

- I. **Date:** November 7, 2022
- II. **Sponsoring Constituent:** Undergraduate Enrollment and Academic Policy Committee
- III. **Statement of the Issue:** Reduction of the minimum upper-level credit hours required for earning a baccalaureate degree from the current 45 hours to 40 hours

UNIVERSITY GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

Each candidate for a baccalaureate degree must meet the following general requirements: (Some A-State colleges have additional “general” requirements.) . . .

8. Complete half of the last 50% of semester hours through the A-State campus.
9. Complete a minimum of 45 40 semester hours of junior-senior level courses.
10. Complete a minimum of 120 semester hours (additional hours may be required by the various colleges for particular majors) and meet the requirements for a degree as outlined in the respective colleges’ requirements . . .

IV. **Rational for Proposal:**

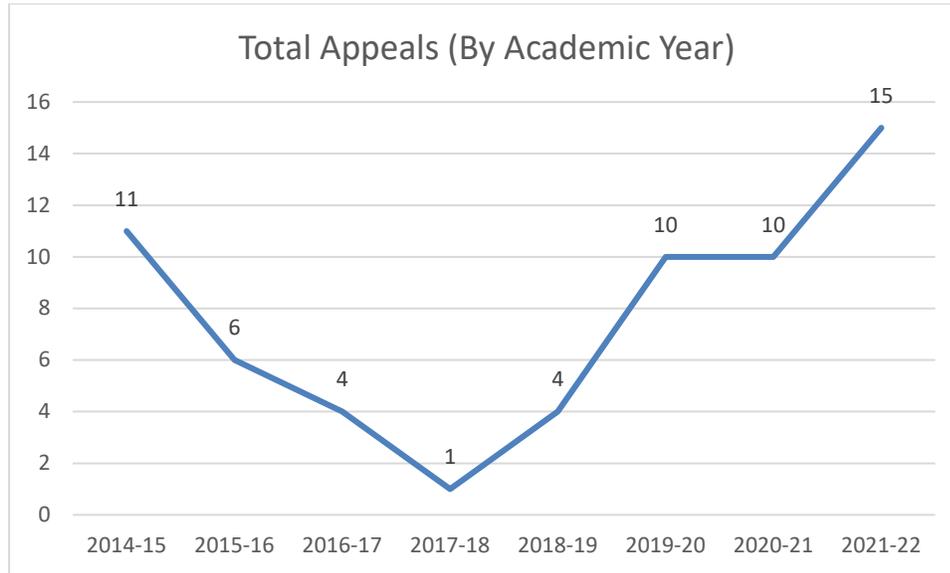
The current University policy is inconsistent with State of Arkansas minimum requirements and the policies of other Arkansas institutions of higher education. Furthermore, an increasing number of students are appealing the current requirement of 45 upper-level hours to the Undergraduate Graduation and Academic Appeals Committee to graduate in a timely manner.

The proposed change would make Arkansas State University consistent with State policy. Specifically, the State of Arkansas currently stipulates a minimum of 40 upper-level credit hours are required for the completion of a baccalaureate degree:

“The bachelor’s degree will be awarded to students upon successful completion of a program that requires a minimum of 120 undergraduate semester credit hours, including the 35-semester hour state minimum general education core, *a minimum of 40 semester hours of upper-level courses*, and a minimum of 30 semester hours (including 20 semester hours of upper-level courses) in the major field of study . . .” (ADHE Definitions, p. 24, emphasis added).

The proposed change would make Arkansas State University consistent with other institutions of higher education in Arkansas. The University of Central Arkansas, Arkansas Tech and University of Arkansas only require 40 upper-level hours for the completion of a baccalaureate degree.

As shown in the graph below, there has been an increasing number of appeals made to the Undergraduate Graduation and Academic Appeals Committee to waive our 45-hour requirement. In most cases, the student had satisfied the State-mandated 40-hours but was 1 or 2 hours short of the institutional requirement of 45 credit hours.



Due to the limited number of 1- and 2-credit hour upper-level courses at A-State that are open to all students, satisfying the current policy can result in students taking an additional 3-hour course that is not required for their major or the 120-credit hour total required for most baccalaureate degrees – which may also have financial aid implications.

It should be noted that the proposed policy change *only* refers to the minimum number of upper-level credit hours for the completion of a baccalaureate degree (i.e., the 120+ hours required by the State). There is no impact on the curriculum of any undergraduate major or program which currently require more than 40 upper-level hours in their program of study. In addition, no major would be required to provide students with the 40-hour minimum within their program of study (i.e., the State guideline quoted above indicates only a minimum of 20 upper-level credit hours are required within a major).

V. **Type of review:** Expedited